



THE  
MONTHLY



GULL  
BULLETIN

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Volume 37

Berkeley, California, October, 1955

Number 10

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### FIELD TRIP TO RODEO LAGOON

Over thirty members and friends went on the field trip to Rodeo Lagoon on August 14. The weather was raw, windy and foggy. However, though it was a poor day for birders, it was a good day for birds. Maybe the birds were too cold to move fast or far. Fall migration had just started but some migrating Sandpipers, Phalaropes, Grebes, Ducks, Pelicans, and Gulls were seen. The highlight of the trip was the excellent opportunity to compare the Northern and Red Phalaropes. There were at least ten Red Phalaropes sprinkled through the various groups of Northerns. The slightly larger size of the Reds and their shorter and thicker bill with the touch of yellow at the base were easily seen, as well as the difference in face patterns and color of the backs.

After nearly all of the party had left, the leader and Charles Hines returned to the far side of the lagoon to investigate a black-headed bird which turned out to be a Sabine Gull in full breeding plumage, a rare find. Also nearby were two Pectoral Sandpipers. Then, on the way out of the military reservation a hawk was seen that was entirely white except for a few spots near the tips of the wings. Wild hopes that the bird was a Gyrfalcon were dashed by the bird's cry; it was an albino Red-tail. The bird was sadly in need of a new coat of feathers as it looked very weather-beaten.

The following 57 species were identified: Eared Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, Brown Pelican, Brandt Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Calif. Quail, Coot, Black Turnstone, Long-billed Curlew, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Northern Phalarope, Western Gull, Calif. Gull, Sabine Gull, Heermann Gull, Caspian Tern, Mourning Dove, Anna Hummingbird, Allen Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Black Phoebe, Violet-green Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Scrub Jay, Crow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bush-tit, Wren-tit, Bewick Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Robin, Swainson (Russet-backed) Thrush, Pileolated Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer Blackbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

— ARTHUR J. BENNETT, *Leader and Historian.*

## AUGUST TRIP TO STRAWBERRY CANYON

On a clear, comfortable Saturday, August 27, some 27 persons participated in a field trip which began at the Botanic Garden in Strawberry Canyon and returned there for lunch, with an intervening walk of about 1 hour, 45 minutes along the road leading up the north-facing slope of the canyon below the Botanic Garden, where the dense live-oak, laurel and madrone woodland alternates with patches of soft chaparral. In this wooded area there were two Orange-crowned Warblers singing occasionally, and at the Garden earlier several Yellow and Orange-crowned and one Black-capped (Pileolated) Warblers were seen in and near a row of poplars. A more unexpected migrant in this hilly habitat was a Marsh Hawk which flew southward high overhead. The greatest attraction, however, was probably the large number of hummingbirds doing battle over feeding rights in the blossoming tobaccos and other plants in the Botanic Garden. Most of them were females and young of Allen and/or Rufous Hummingbirds (which species are indistinguishable in the field except for *adult* males, none of which were found. The following 40 species were noted: Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Marsh Hawk, 1; Calif. Quail, 12 (incl. young about 1/3 grown); Mourning Dove, 2; Horned Owl, 1; Anna Hummingbird, 5; Allen and/or Rufous Hummingbirds, 50+; Red-shafted Flicker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Black Phoebe, 1; Western Flycatcher, 3; W. Wood Pewee, 2; Steller Jay, 8; Scrub Jay, 7; Chestnut-backed Chickadee, many; Plain Titmouse, 1; Bush-tit, 8; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 7; Wren-tit, 15; Bewick Wren, 4; Calif. Thrasher, 1; Robin, 15; Swainson (Russet-backed) Thrush, 2; Hutton Vireo, 1; Warbling Vireo, 2; Orange-crowned Warbler, 5; Yellow Warbler, 4; Black-capped Warbler, 2; Red-winged Blackbird, 6; Brewer Blackbird, 20 (blackbirds at the W. gate of U.C. where those observers coming by bus assembled); Black-headed Grosbeak, 1+; Lazuli Bunting, 1; House Finch, many; Am. Goldfinch, 1+; Spotted Towhee, 7; Brown Towhee, several; Oregon Junco, 15; White-crowned Sparrow, 4; Song Sparrow, 30. (Also a Cottontail Rabbit and one Deer).

— HOWARD L. COGSWELL, *Leader and Historian*.

## SEPTEMBER BOAT TRIP TO THE FARALLONES

The Society's boat trip on September 11 did not produce as many good views of as many species as we have had sometimes. The charter was shared by 25 members and guests who braved relatively rough water. At about 6 miles offshore we caught up with a fog bank which was thin but persistent thence to the island. Little was seen en route across the bay. However, as we then went on through the Golden Gate, things began to improve, what with a number of shearwaters, phalaropes, murres, and 2 jaegers, one of them a fine adult Pomarine. The highlight of the trip came in mid-morning at about 8 miles E. of the island when the one albatross we encountered responded to our baiting by repeatedly coming in close to the boat and settling on the water to eat. During this excitement 2 petrels were also seen but they refused to be as confiding as their giant relative, despite provision of their supposedly favorite food — oil (we formed a several acre slick with 2 gallons of cottonseed oil). Since they were all-blackish, they were either the Black or the Ashy Petrel; but without a size standard for comparison and with only brief views, no one aboard could be sure which they were. Either species is likely at this time of year, although of the two only the Ashy breeds on the Farallons. While the oil slick was being

prepared 3 Sabine Gulls flew by, making this point on the ocean the most lucrative, insofar as rare species was concerned. At the island considerable discussion took place regarding some oddly marked alcids on the water, but with the aid of Don Eckelberry's figure of the immature Black Guillemot (in Pough's "Audubon Water Bird Guide") we concluded they were the corresponding stage of our Pigeon Guillemot. A few adult Guillemots were still carrying fish to the island, some of their young apparently not yet being on the water.

In the following list of the 30 species recorded on the entire trip the three numbers (or hyphens if "none" is to be indicated) appearing after the name of each species, and separated by diagonal bars, indicate, in order, a count or estimate of the individuals of that species seen in the Bay, those seen between the Golden Gate Bridge and about one-half mile from the island, and those seen at and near the island itself. Incidentally a *correction* is in order in the write-up of the spring trips (Gull, 37: 27) where a similar numbering system was used, but the numbers were separated by commas. One comma among the numbers following Brandt Cormorant was misplaced by the printer, resulting in a series of numerals which may appear to the casual reader to represent 4,155,000 birds when in reality it should have read 4,15,5000 (4 in the bay, 15 thence to the island, and 5000 at the island).

Black-footed Albatross, -/1/-; Sooty Shearwater, -/640/-; Pink-footed Shearwater, -/3/-; unidentified Shearwaters, -/500/-; Ashy or Black Petrel, -/2+/-; Brown Pelican, 3/1/-; Double-crested Cormorant, 400 (mostly on Brooks Island power line roost in late p.m.) /1/-; Brandt Cormorant, 10/70/3000; Pelagic Cormorant, -/?/200; unidentified Cormorants, 20/160/5000; Am. Egret, 1/-/-; Black-crowned Night Heron, 1/-/-; Pintail, -/30/- (at 5 mi. offshore, and headed SW, ? toward Hawaii); Lesser Scaup, 2/-/-; Osprey, 1/-/- (flying S. near top of Golden Gate Bridge and on over San Francisco); Killdeer, 1/-/-; Black Turnstone, -/-/12; Willet, 2/-/-; Red Phalarope, -/2/6; Northern Phalarope, -/2/1; unidentified Phalaropes, -/50/50; Pomarine Jaeger, -/2/-; unidentified Jaegers, -/2/- (1 of these a small dark phase one); Western Gull, 800/400/2000; Calif. Gull, 12/60/-; Ring-billed Gull, -/1/-; Heermann Gull, 2/8/-; Sabine Gull, -/3/-; unidentified Gulls, 100/40/1000; Forster Tern, 6/7/-; Common Tern, -/2/-; unidentified Terns (either or both of the last 2 species, or Arctic?), 10/35/-; Common Murre, -/90/2; Pigeon Guillemot, -/2/40; Cassin Auklet, -/-/6. Also, Northern Sea-Lion, -/-/150 females, yearlings, and pups.

— HOWARD L. COGSWELL, *Leader and Historian*.

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome the following: from Berkeley, Lt. Erwin R. Archibald, Mrs. Margarita Carney, Miss Eleanor J. Cralle, Miss Alice V. Johnson, Mrs. Ruth McGovney Kaspin, Mr. and Mrs. Marsden M. Manson and Miss Jane Seely; from Hayward, Mrs. Emil Sekerak; from Inverness, Gustavus S. Miller; from Novato, Mrs. Katherine Hulme; from Oakland, Dr. Jean La Vell Dunham; from Piedmont, Miss Judith Rutledge; from Richmond, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Heinemann; from San Francisco, Miss Dawn Duino, Mrs. Walter A. Fort, Miss Julianne Muus, Miss Effa M. Pollard, Peter H. Raven, Miss Margarette Richardson, Miss Nina Saharoff and Ron Suhl; from San Juan, Puerto Rico, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer D. Johnson; from Sausalito, Miss Gladys Snyder.

— MRS. FRANK A. SCOTT, *Membership Chairman*.

## OCTOBER MEETING

The 457th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held at 7:30 on Thursday, October 13 in the Assembly Room (3rd floor) of the Main Library in San Francisco (Larkin at McAllister Sts., No. 5 bus). Mrs. Charles H. Smith will show colored slides and speak on "Utah, Land of Mystery". This is a return engagement for Mrs. Smith who presented such a popular program last year. Since then she has toured Goblin Valley and run the rapids of the Yampa River. This is sure to be an outstanding program. Come and bring a friend. — MRS. BUDD J. SMITH, *Program Chairman*.

## FIELD TRIPS FOR OCTOBER

On Saturday, October 15, to GRASS VALLEY REGIONAL PARK, east of Oakland. This is our newest regional park, and contains areas of open grassland, brushy slopes and draws, some patches of oak-laurel woodland and Eucalyptus groves. Wintering sparrows, Hermit Thrushes, Kinglets, and Audubon Warblers should be found in abundance, as well as perhaps some late migrant Orange-crowned and Black-throated Gray Warblers. The area is also an excellent one for hawks. There is no automobile entry into the main part of the park, which will be covered afoot on easy trails from roadside entrances. Meet at 9:15 at the corner of Mountain Blvd. and Redwood Road in Oakland, which can be reached via Key System Bus Line 15, 15A or 15D (from San Francisco take N line, transferring at 35th Ave. and MacArthur Blvd. to one of these). Transportation to the park from the meeting place by private cars. Leader, Lee Stallcup, LO 9-3185. Bring binoculars, lunch and interested friends.

On Sunday, October 23, to Conn Lake and vicinity, Napa County. This large reservoir is a refuge and should provide a good variety of waterfowl on this date, which is early in the hunting period. The adjacent open woodland and chaparral slopes also have an excellent assortment of land birds, often including Lewis and Nuttall Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatches, Red-shouldered Hawks, both kinglets, etc. Meet at 9 at the bridge on the Silverado Trail a mile or so north of Napa. Leader, A. Laurence Curl, LA. 6-7004. Bring binoculars, telescope, lunch and interested friends.

— HOWARD L. COGSWELL, *Field Trips Chairman*.

## Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Established January 25, 1917

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Changes of Address should be sent to the Membership Chairman; claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National \$5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE. Local Membership only, \$1.50 per year.

Branch of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, California Office — 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4 — TH. 8-4042